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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0323  
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 0256  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1461  
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE 0527  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0697  
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA IMMEDIATE 0044  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 0165

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 001898

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2016  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [UN](#)  
SUBJECT: SYG SELECTION: "COLORED BALLOTS" SECURE BAN AS  
FAVORITE

REF: USUN 1881

Classified By: Ambassador John R. Bolton, Permanent Representative, for  
reasons 1.4 b,d.

¶1. (C) Summary. Ban Ki-Moon cemented his lead in the fourth  
Secretary-General straw poll, the first to use differentiated

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ballots to identify the votes of Permanent Members. FM Ban  
received fourteen "encouraging" votes, with one elected  
member of the Council expressing "no opinion". Each of the  
other five candidates had at least one "discouraging" vote  
from a Permanent Members. Based on the clear support for Ban  
and the lack of a potential veto, the Council agreed to take  
a formal vote to recommend a candidate to the General  
Assembly on Monday, October 9. End Summary.

¶2. (C) The Security Council held its fourth straw poll on  
candidates for Secretary-General on October 2. As per the  
three previous ballots, Council members were asked to choose  
whether to "encourage", "discourage", or offer "no opinion"  
on the six candidates remaining in the race. The P5 were,  
for the first time, given a different ballot than that given  
to the elected members of the Council. The overall results:

-- FM Ban: 14 encourage; 0 discourage; 1 no opinion.  
-- U/SYG Tharoor: 10 encourage; 3 discourage; 2 no opinion.  
-- President Vike-Freiberga: 5 encourage; 6 discourage; 4 no  
opinion.  
-- DPM Surakiart: 4 encourage; 7 discourage; 4 no opinion.  
-- Ashraf Ghani: 4 encourage; 11 discourage; 0 no opinion.  
-- Prince Zeid: 2 encourage; 8 discourage; 5 no opinion.

¶3. (C) The P-5 cast their ballots as follows:

-- FM Ban: 5 encourage; 0 discourage; 0 no opinion.  
-- U/SYG Tharoor: 3 encourage; 1 discourage; 1 no opinion.  
-- President Vike-Freiberga: 3 encourage; 2 discourage; 0 no  
opinion.  
-- DPM Surakiart: 1 encourage; 2 discourage; 2 no opinion.  
-- Ashraf Ghani: 2 encourage; 3 discourage; 0 no opinion.  
-- Prince Zeid: 2 encourage; 1 discourage; 2 no opinion.

Formal Decision set for Monday, October 9  
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¶4. (C) Following the conclusion of the straw poll, Council  
members turned to the question of when to take the formal  
decision on the Secretary-General recommendation, now that

Ban has secured overwhelming support without a discouraging vote from a Permanent Member. The Council informally agreed to vote to make a formal recommendation to the General Assembly on Monday, October 9.

15. (C) Ambassador Bolton, though advocating for a rapid conclusion to the process in the Council, agreed to the proposed timing, which was sought by Japan and other Council members. (Earlier on Monday, Ambassador Bolton met with Japanese PR Oshima, as part of the regular monthly bilateral consultations with the incoming Council President. Oshima specifically asked Ambassador Bolton not to have the formal decision on Ban this week, given that new Japanese PM Abe plans to visit South Korea and China over the weekend.)

16. (U) After the ballot, Tharoor announced to the press that he was pulling out of the race and had written to FM Ban to congratulate him.  
BOLTON